

CCPC Environment Group Action Notes

In Person / Zoom Meeting 26 November 2021

Updates in Red from follow up meeting on 20th December 2021

Present – Josey, David, Helen, Luke and Tom by Zoom. Apologies Richard, Rachel and Sue Western.

Present 20/12 - Josey, David, Helen, Richard and Tom, all by Zoom. Apologies, Luke, Rachel.

Our Secret Field

- Prior to the meeting Josey circulated draft notes of meeting held on 25th November between the PC reps and NT reps. Josey also summarised a further email from PC Chair, Steve Clarke.
- The proposal is to complete some development work prior to representing a lease to the PC, including an initial development plan which will be part of the final business plan to present to PC around potentially Oct 2022.
- Having done this, the lease would be more informed and reflect what the field is developing into, rather than a vague vision of what it might be in the future. This is better from both PC and NT points of view. This also helps the clerk seeking a more favourable quote for public liability insurance.
- Discussed and agreed the purpose of the field is to increase biodiversity and improve community cohesion, but to not be a place to grow food or for commercial uses.
- **Post 20/12 meeting update from Steve Clarke** - *The key point on Our Secret Field is that the NT is happy to take time to work up a development plan with us and therefore they will retain ownership for the moment. Tom anticipated that if we would promoting bio diversity and access then the lease should not have a significant rent. In the meantime some modest projects such as tree planting could proceed. We have therefore taken OSF out of being linked to this years Council budget. When we do produce a plan we will need to explore as much fund-raising and grant opportunities.*
- Tom advised if land is needed for community growing or additional allotments, then this should be requested from the NT as a separate project; part of the land next door might be available for community growing.
- **David** to ask about the arrangements for the Wareham Community Growers, and **Helen** to find out are the allotments at Langton are a community space. All agreed a Community Growing Project would need to be a separate project. **David** has circulated information about the Wareham growers, very interesting and inspiring although not anything we can take on at present. **David** to contact Mary Sparkes, langtonmatravers@dorset-aptc.gov.uk about community growing for future information.
- The aim for the EG is for a motion to go to the PC in March to obtain agreement to the development plan, and to then put the lease to the PC in October. After discussion, agreed we should aim for March to keep momentum going, **Josey** to clarify with Steve Clarke what form this motion might take, and **Tom** to make himself available for this meeting (Monday 14th March 2022). **Tom** is available. Helen advised Cllrs still concerned about OSF at last PC meeting as Steve was ill and Josey away on holiday, so no-one able to explain the situation. **Josey** to discuss with Steve how to brief Cllrs about the agreement with NT.
- Tom advised that from the NT point of view, some physical work could take place at the field prior to the lease, so long as the work is reversible, e.g. tree/hedge planting (along the boundaries), moveable seating, temporary sign boards, mow in path, etc.

- Discussed funding for the field, agreed that we should aim for this to be self-funding from fund raising by the EG, including accessing grants, and by using community labour where possible, e.g. having an annual inspection of the boundaries, and then organising a fence repair day. **Tom** to look into what funding might be available for when the lease is eventually signed, so we can include that in the Development Plan. **Tom advised available funding includes heathland mitigation funding, plus various sources of either capital funding, or revenue funding available for ongoing costs. Tom to start drafting a funding statement in the new year, with support from Josey, Steve and the Clerk.**
- Discussed that we need to convene a project team, produce a dated project plan (detailed short term plan [including the project and maintenance works for the next year] and longer term one, e.g. year 1, year 2, etc), a ground plan, details of required / completed surveys, a detailed proposal for tree / hedge planting positions and a pictorial view of the field / mood board. **Tom to provide a business plan template document structure that we can fill in.**
- Agreed that for the next year, we would form the basis of the project team, and make decisions and progress the planning and physical work. **Josey** to contact Michelle to ask the EG email list if anyone else would like to join this team. **Still to do – Josey to do this with the email invitation to the Jan meeting.**
- Agreed to use the name Our Secret Field from now on to make it clear that it is open to the whole community.
- Luke passed his notes from the meeting at the field in April to David. **David to** look these out and if possible share with the group.
- **Helen** to produce the short term dated plan from the discussions at the meeting, see Appendix A. **Tom suggested moving the physical works to all being in Feb, all agreed.**
- **Tom to review the project timeline and provide comments.**
- **David**, supported by **Luke**, to visit the field and draw up the ground plan. Agreed that this should include a meandering path(s), hay meadow area(s), an area for tree planting (close to hedge(s)), hedge infilling, a wildflower area (on slopes as poorer soil?), a raised “waste” area for lifted turves etc (nettle mound?) and temporary signage and seating. Plus a possible site for a boggy area at the bottom, agreed that best not to plan for a pond at this stage due to high risk and ongoing maintenance. **Complete – all to comment.**
- **Agreed we can enhance the hedgerow along the boundary inside the fence, as there is only one blackthorn bush there now, but that this would not require any change of use documentation.**
- Agreed seating to be logs or a bench made of a plank between two logs, **Luke** and **David** to ask around for any, plus **Luke** to put a request in CVN. NB - no fixed concreted-in infrastructure at this stage. **Tom advised all seating to be logs, rather than constructed seating as these would require inspections.**
- Agreed signage prior to March to be an A4 laminated sign on / near the gate.
- Agreed a soil survey would be useful, **Tom** to find out if NT have one. **There is no soil survey available, but Tom advised near the field bottom the soil was improved in the war, so expected to be neutral to acid. The soil is expected to become poorer further up the slope, but with the quality being slightly better than the common.**
- Agreed a hedge survey is also required, **David** to try to do this asap. **Complete, there is only one blackthorn bush there now.**
- Agreed that the seedlings / saplings David is baby-sitting will be planted in the field.
- Agreed **Josey** will order trees from Ovo / BCV, 1 x pack 4 and 1 x pack 5 with the spiral guards, to be delivered to Helen's just prior to planting day 1. Trees to be planted at 1.5-2m intervals, so this will dictate the area required for tree planting, and closer together to infill the hedges. Generally only 50% survive. **Complete. NB. These Tree/Hedging packs are Free of Charge.**
- **Post meeting note** – pack 4 now sold out, and Mark from NT advised best to only infill hedges, including some standards, as an Environmental Assessment will probably be required for change of use application.

- Agreed we would like to do some citizen science, e.g. weekly butterfly surveys, bat survey, plant surveys, etc. **David** to ask at an upcoming social event about local experts contributing to ecological surveys. **A lot of interest in this from David's contacts, so hopefully we can call on this interest to help with these surveys.**
- **Luke** to contact the school to ask about contributing to the pictorial view of the field / mood board, and also to ask what sort of level of input would they like, including taking part in preparing the ground, planting, sowing, surveying, and creating the information boards? **Luke to find out who is leading the Eco Schools initiative, and Tom to make contact too.**
- Also discussed whether youth club might like to get involved, and maybe host a fundraising event (subject to agreement by NT) in the field. **Josey** to include in an email to Michelle to contact the Youth Club and ask if they would like to be involved, and if so to what extent. **Josey still to do.**
- Physical works this year will include mowing/strimming of the paths, approx. every 2-3 weeks, plus an annual hay cut and a cut of the wildflower area. Agreed we do not want cattle grazing due to churning up the soil and the risk of straying into the wildflower area, and preferably not sheep either, but open to sheep grazing initially depending on how managed. The preference is for a machine cut as was done this year, with the hay being provided in exchange. Also in order to plant a wildflower meadow, there will also need to be a scraping back of the soil in March. **Luke** to discuss with **Tom** about how we organise this (Steve / Jonathan / NT?). **Rachel keen to provide grazing, but need to review the detail of this later.**
- **Luke** to prepare CVN entry for Jan edition inviting parishioners to contribute to **Our Secret Field**, both in refining planning and physical works. **Missed deadline due to Luke's personal commitments, for which he apologised, but all were understanding of Luke's situation.**

Connections with other local groups

- Agreed that the donation offered by Aquarius from Josey's October talk would be used to purchase wildflower seeds for Our Secret Field, **David** to advise Aquarius. **This has been done.**
- **Helen** suggested asking the Clerk to include the EG finances in the finance report to the PC each month so Cllrs are reminded that the EG have their own funding. **Josey** to ask Michelle to do this.
- **David** to investigate a date in the spring to speak to the group that meets at the Library. **Library now shut until Jan and various talks cancelled due to Covid. Meeting in Jan and David to ask at this.**
- **David** to also investigate any other engagement opportunities, e.g. coffee mornings. **On hold due to Covid, but suggesting we attend the coffee morning on a regular basis.**
- **Helen** to look into developing a more visually striking set of information. **Still to do. We need to take photos of the works in OSF to use for our display material.**
- We still have some wildflower seeds we can offer during engagement activities.

Carbon Footprint Tools - Giki Zero

- Josey suggested we look to do face to face guidance / training – all agreed this should be supported, and that perhaps we can do this in conjunction with DC?
- **Helen** advised Dorset CAN have a meeting with Ray Bryan from DC, so we may be able to use this contact to obtain information about how DC anticipate Giki will be used.

Biodiversity Projects

- Regarding work at St Edwards Church Lawns, one of the main advocates has moved to a different church, so we might need to offer more physical help. **David** to speak to Penny Smith to see what the situation is, **Tom** has offered to help as required.
- **No further action for us at present for St James in Kingston.**
- Discussed the Jubilee planting, agreed that we should plan for sites in the Parish other than Our Secret Field for tree planting in autumn 2022. Still not managed to get any response from DC reference planting on their land in the parish. **No response from DC. David has emailed Katie Black**

to explain our potential 70 trees in the parish, no response yet. **David** to contact Cherry Brooks to ask for her support.

- **David** to find out when help might be needed with the Kimmeridge hedge planting. **None**, it is all complete with the local residents. **David** to take some photos.
- **Alison Palmer** is leading on a project to fill gaps in the hedge, NT 50% and PP 50%, planned for mid to late February.

Update from Richard by email

- PEG - Solar Streets. As of 8th October '20 installations have been completed another 38 quotations are awaiting a decision. **Numbers are still rising, and likely to get more than 40, which is the average number for a similar project. Richard** to provide more details at the next meeting. The promotion in terms of the Open Greener Homes in the PP festival appears to have triggered interest in a number of additional installations.
- PEG - Bridport Energy Local is now operational and PEG are working on setting up a Swanage Energy Local scheme. **The owner of the wind turbine at Godlingston is keen to be part of an energy local scheme, and Luke has offered to work on this project.**
- Dorset Offshore Wind group have been in various meetings to discuss a proposal to develop a Windfarm some distance out to sea but based around Portland. This is very early stages 'Blue Sky ' thinking but work behind the scenes continues.

Contribution from Sue Western by text (only read by Helen following the meeting)

- Sorry I can't be there for the EG meeting but please send my apologies and say I am up for helping out wherever possible. (Research or phone calls or whatever).
- One thing I am curious about: is the NT going to better insulate its rental properties? **The Clerk is following this up.**

Date of Next Meetings

- Full EG meeting Thursday 20th January in the evening, to include presentation of plans for Our Secret Field, plus other updates. In person subject to Covid, **Luke** to investigate venue (e.g. VH, CC Club, Bankes, Mortons), and advertise in CVN. We will also need to have zoom as a fall back, and if this is needed due to Covid, we will advertise on FB and notice boards. **Josey to check if we can meet by zoom, but if so then agreed we will meet virtually on 20th January. If so then Luke to cancel the Bankes Arms.**
- Future meetings to be agreed, probably on third Thursday, to include Giki training, butterfly survey training, etc.

CCPCEG Core Group members; Josey, Helen, Tom, Luke, David, Richard, Rachel
Contact us via the clerk (Michelle) corfecastlepc@aol.com

APPENDIX A

Date	Activity	Where/ Person Responsible
Nov / Dec	Hedge survey	Secret Field / David Complete
Nov / Dec	Survey for ground plan	Secret Field / David & Luke Complete
Before Tue 7 Dec	Agree short term timeline (Appendix A)	All Complete
Before Thu 20 Dec	Draft ground plan prepared	David & Luke Complete
Before Thu 20 Dec	Draft short term timeline prepared	Helen Complete
Thu 20 Dec	CCPCEG Core Team / first project team meeting	Zoom Complete
Fri 14 Jan	Deadline for Feb CVN (update on field)	Luke
Before Thu 20 Jan	Update ground plan	David
Before Thu 20 Jan	Draft project plan timeline prepared	Helen
Before Thu 20 Jan	Draft pictorial view of the field / mood board prepared	Luke (school?)
Thu 20 Jan	CCPCEG Core Team / project team meeting	Venue TBC (Luke)
Before Sat 22 Jan Early Feb	Log seating in place	Secret Field / David & Luke
Sat 22 Jan Early Feb	10am-3pm prepare ground for tree / hedge planting	Secret Field
Wed 26 Jan Early Feb	10am-3pm prepare ground for tree / hedge planting	Secret Field
Sat 29 / Sun 30 Jan Early Feb	Contingency for prepare ground for tree / hedge planting	Secret Field
w/c Mon 14 Feb	Ovo / TCV tree delivery	Helen's
Mon 14 Jan	Deadline for Mar CVN (update on field)	Luke
Fri 18 Feb	10am-3pm peg out positions for tree / hedge planting	Secret Field
By Thu 17 Feb	Update project plan timeline	Helen
By Thu 17 Feb	Update pictorial view of the field / mood board	Luke (school?)
By Thu 17 Feb	Draft Development Plan prepared	All
Thu 17 Feb	CCPCEG Core Team / project team meeting	Venue TBC
Sat 19 Feb	10am-3pm tree / hedge planting	Secret Field
Wed 23 Feb	10am-3pm tree / hedge planting	Secret Field
Sat 26 / Sun 27 Feb	Contingency for tree / hedge planting	Secret Field
By Mon 28 Feb	Finalise Development Plan	All
By Mon 28 Feb	Prepare Secret Field motion (development plan and expenditure)	Josey
Mon 14 Mar	PC Meeting	TBC
Thu 17 Mar	CCPCEG Core Team / project team meeting	Venue TBC
Mar	Peg out wildflower area	Secret Field
Mar	Scrape off ground ready for wildflower area	Secret Field
Mar / Apr	Design signs including development plan, nature and history information	TBC
Apr	Wildflower planting	Secret Field
Apr	Erect temporary sign boards	Secret Field
May	First butterfly surveys, including training as required	Secret Field

Date	Activity	Where/ Person Responsible
May – September	Weekly butterfly surveys	Secret Field
May – September	2-3 weekly mowing of paths	Secret Field
May – September	Bat survey(s)	Secret Field
May – September	Plant species surveys	Secret Field
Mar – September	Development of Business Plan	All
Mar – September	Development of updated lease	Josey / Tom
September	Mowing of hay meadow, and wildflower area	Luke / Tom to arrange
By Mon 10 Oct	Prepare Secret Field motion (business plan, lease and expenditure)	Josey
Mon 10 Oct	PC Meeting	TBC
Oct - Feb	Planting of more trees for the Jubilee	Secret Field / around the Parish